



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,442	02/17/2004	Jeffrey D. Hensel	M61.12-0537	6973
27366 7590 11/28/2007 WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) SUITE 1400 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319			EXAMINER LEWIS, CHERYL RENE	
			ART UNIT 2167	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/28/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,442

Applicant(s)

HENSEL ET AL.

Examiner

Cheryl Lewis

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the applicants' communication received on July 26, 2007.
2. Claim 1 and 3-24 are presented for examination. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 12 in the amendment received on July 26, 2007. Claims 2 has been cancelled.
3. Receipt is acknowledged of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) and a submission, filed on July 26, 2007.
4. Applicants' arguments with respect to claim 1 and 3-24 have been considered but is deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vora et al. (Pat. No. 6539379 filed August 23, 1999, hereinafter Vora).

7. Regarding Claim 1, Vora teaches a method and apparatus for implementing a corporate directory and service center.

The method and associated system for a method and apparatus for implementing a corporate directory and service center as taught or suggested by Vora includes:

obtaining organization structure information that defines a hierarchical structure of connected nodes (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67), each node representing a business unit, each business unit being a part of the organization (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67), the organization structure defining how the business units are related to each other based on how the nodes are connected to one another in the organization structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67); obtaining data entity information that defines of data entities that represent the business data related to the organization (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67); generating links, separate from the data entities, linking the data entities to the nodes in organization structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67); and controlling user access to the data entities based on the links (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

8. Regarding Claim 3, Vora teaches each node comprises a link container configured to include one or more links to data entities and wherein generating links

Art Unit: 2167

comprises providing one or more links to data entities in the link container (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

9. Regarding Claim 4, Vora teaches a plurality of nodes into a node group (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67), each node group comprising a group link container configured to include one or more links to the data entities (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67), and wherein generating links comprises providing one or more links to the data entities in the group link container (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

10. Regarding Claim 5, Vora teaches associating user roles with the nodes and group nodes in the hierarchical tree structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

11. Regarding Claim 6, Vora teaches assigning the user to a user role (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

12. Regarding Claim 7, Vora teaches filtering the user access to data entities linked to nodes that are associated with the user role to which the user is assigned (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

13. Regarding Claim 8, Vora teaches generating the organization structure information as a tree structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

14. Regarding Claim 9, Vora teaches changing the tree structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67); and

modifying the links to link the data entities to the changed tree structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

15. Regarding Claim 10, Vora teaches automatically transferring links from the affected nodes to other nodes in the tree structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

16. Regarding Claim 11, Vora teaches presenting links to the affected nodes for manual modification (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

17. Regarding Claim 12, Vora teaches an organization structure generator component (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67), configured to generate the organization structure with a plurality of nodes, each node representing a unit of the organization (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67); and a link manager component generating a link between a given unit of the organization represented by a given node in the organization structure and an entity representative of data corresponding to the organization by generating the link between the given node and the entity (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

18. Regarding Claim 13, Vora teaches a link container and wherein the link manager is configured to generate the link between the given unit and the entity by placing the link in the link container represented by the given node (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

19. Regarding Claim 14, Vora teaches a user role manager component configured to assign a user role to a user (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

20. Regarding Claim 15, Vora teaches the user role manager component is configured to link each role to nodes in the organization structure through containers associated with those nodes (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

21. Regarding Claim 16, Vora teaches a filtering layer configured to filter user access to entities based on the user's user role and the links (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

22. Regarding Claim 17, Vora teaches the link manager is configured to automatically modify links in the link containers according to a predetermined process based on changes to the organization structure (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

23. Regarding Claim 18, Vora teaches changes to the organization structure affect nodes and wherein the link manger is configured to display links in the link containers corresponding to the affected nodes for manual modification based on the changes to the organization structure (col. 4, lines 15-64; col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

24. Regarding Claim 19, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 presented above. In addition, Vora teaches tree data indicative of a tree structure comprised of connected nodes (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8,

Art Unit: 2167

lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67), each node in the tree structure representing a unit of the organization and configured to include filter links (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67), the filter links each identifying a business data entity that is linked to the unit of the organization represented by the node containing the link (col. 4, lines 15-64, col. 5, lines 20-67, col. 8, lines 1-67, col. 9., lines 1-67, col. 10, lines 1-67).

25. Regarding Claim 20, the limitations of this claim has been noted in the rejections of claims 2, 6, and 7 presented above. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

26. Regarding Claim 21, the limitations of this claim has been noted in the rejections of claims 2, 6, and 7 presented above. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

27. Regarding Claim 22, the limitations of this claim has been noted in the rejections of claims 5 and 19 presented above. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

28. Regarding Claim 23, the limitations of this claim has been noted in the rejections of claims 1, 12, and 19 presented above. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

29. Regarding Claim 24, the limitations of this claim has been noted in the rejections of claim 19 presented above. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

NAME OF CONTACT

30. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cheryl Lewis/
Patent Examiner, A.U. 2167
November 26, 2007